



DID YOU KNOW?

A JAMESBURG FACT SHEET

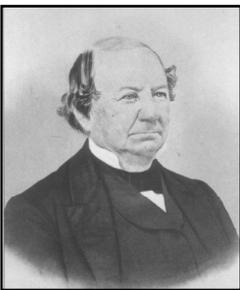
WHO WE ARE

The Jamesburg Historical Association was founded in 1979 by Jamesburg area people interested in the preservation of the historic heritage of Jamesburg. With tenacity and dedication, the charter members of the Jamesburg Historical Association worked to verify the historical and cultural value of *Lakeview*, the Buckelew Mansion and the need to preserve not only the building and grounds, but also the Buckelew legacy, along with other Jamesburg area artifacts, for future generations to view and appreciate.

Lakeview is located in *Buckelew Park*. Both are owned by the People of Jamesburg. They entrusted their care to the Jamesburg Historical Association.

Today the present members of the Association continue in the tradition of its pioneer members, working to preserve and make available to the public a living history of James Buckelew and his town.

ABOUT JAMES BUCKELEW



James Buckelew, Jamesburg's namesake, was born on August 12, 1801, one of eleven children of John and Isabelle Dove Buckelew. On December 12, 1829, James married Margaret Snedeker. Together they had six children.

Until he was 31 years old, James was a successful farmer and businessman, running a small milling operation on his farm, about four miles from *Lakeview*, in Monroe Township. He then purchased the mill that was located at Lake Manalapan and set up business there. In addition, seeing the possibilities that the "Iron Horse" could provide businesses, he became involved with the Camden Amboy Railroad and later founding the Freehold & Jamesburg Agricultural Railroad. His other transportation-related business ventures included a stagecoach line between Jamesburg and Freehold and providing the finest mule towing teams on the Delaware & Raritan Canal. He was one of the largest mule dealers, and the provider of the best mules in the United States.

Mr. Buckelew was also well-known in agricultural circles. He introduced improved farming methods on the 4,000 acres he had under cultivation and was particularly noted for using marl (sand or clay that contains a substantial amount of calcium carbonate) as fertilizer on his farms. He was also involved in growing cranberries, owning two bogs, at the time the largest single tract in New Jersey for cranberry production.

Of Mr. Buckelew's many other business ventures, four others are also worth mentioning: his draining tile factory produced 3,000 tiles daily, his brick kilns produced 800,000 bricks annually, his gristmill became one of the largest in the country, and his establishment, in 1864, of the First National Bank of Jamesburg, one of the earliest to be chartered by the United States Government. All this in Jamesburg, New Jersey.

James Buckelew died on May 30, 1869. He was interred in the family plot in Fernwood Cemetery.

ABOUT LAKEVIEW

A House of Many Windows
The House of Jamesburg's Treasures



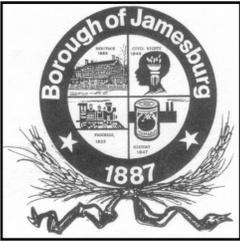
The original part of *Lakeview* dates back to 1685, a one-room house built by William Davison. Over the years additional rooms were added. James Buckelew and his wife Margaret moved into *Lakeview* in 1829 following their marriage. As his family size (the Buickelews had six children) and prestige in the business community grew, Mr. Buckelew expanded the house to include the two-story front, which included, among other things, a wide center hallway, spacious double parlors and a wide, pillared verandah overlooking Lake Manalapan. Various other additions were made over the years, including the third story in the 1850s, so that today the house is a twenty-three room maze that includes many closets, pantries, chimney nooks, and cubbyholes of various sizes and degrees of finish. *Lakeview* was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 and the State Register in 1981. You can see all this, as well as the Jamesburg Historical Association's collection of Buckelew and Jamesburg artifacts when you tour *Lakeview*. *Lakeview* is open for public tours 2:00-4:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, except December. We also offer private tours for groups of 10 or more, call 732-521-5040 to schedule an appointment.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, JAMES BUCKELEW AND THE "LINCOLN COACH"



By the 1860s, James Buckelew was a prominent New Jersey businessman. He was well-known for his successful ventures in agriculture and transportation, especially the railroads. So in 1861, when President-elect Abraham Lincoln was scheduled to visit Trenton for a Pre-Inaugural event, State officials asked Mr. Buckelew to provide a suitable carriage for transporting Mr. Lincoln between the Trenton train station and the State Capitol. Mr. Buckelew provided four beautiful bay stallions from imported Eclipse and Abdallah stock. The driver was the experienced stagecoach driver, Dent Miller. The fact that Mr. Buckelew was asked to provide this coach shows the high regard that State officials had for him and his accomplishments. The Coach provided by Mr. Buckelew for President Lincoln's Trenton visit is on display in *Lakeview*. Housed for many years in Trenton's City Museum, it was returned to Jamesburg and fully restored by the Jamesburg Historical Association. It is one of Jamesburg's proudest possessions!

ABOUT JAMESBURG



Prior to the coming of European settlers, the town we call Jamesburg was occupied by the Leni Lenape Indians. They fished in Lake Manalapan (which means "Land of Good Bread"). Settlers arrived in the late 1600s. A sawmill was established by 1685. At the time Jamesburg was a part of South Amboy Township, which was created that same year from the South Ward of Perth Amboy.

Records indicate that there was a gristmill in operation at Jamesburg well before the American Revolution, probably as early as 1734. In 1746, the Reverend David Brainerd established "Bethel," an Indian mission. This mission consisted of 160 Indians living in log houses with a log school and church, cultivating 80 acres of corn, grain and fruit. The mission closed in 1760. The area was also dotted with prosperous farms.

During the Revolutionary War, Washington's Army marched through the area on their way to the Battle of Monmouth, June 28, 1778. It's very possible that some of Washington's soldiers stopped at the gristmill for supplies.

Between 1787-1832, Jamesburg was known as "Enlsey's Mills," "Rossell's Mills," "Mount's Mills," and "Gordon's Mills." James Buckelew purchased the mill in 1832, at which time it became "Buckelew's Mills." In 1838, Buckelew's Mills became part of the newly-created Township of Monroe.

A school is responsible for the town assuming the name "Jamesburg." In 1847, James Buckelew built a brick school on Church Street, today the location of the Presbyterian Church manse. He built the schoolhouse because the Monroe school system refused admittance to an African-American boy. He declared his school open to *all* children. At the dedication ceremony, the people proclaimed it as the "James B." or "Jamesburg" school, after this the town came to be known as "Jamesburg."

By 1887, Jamesburg's interests were so different from that of the rest of Monroe Township that there was a successful movement to establish a commission form of government. Jamesburg became a completely independent Borough on April 27, 1896.

Over the years Jamesburg has played an important part in National and World history. The first time tomatoes were placed in tin cans occurred in Jamesburg in 1847. Jamesburg was home to the Downs and Finch Shirt Factory, the largest of its kind in the world, from 1877 until it burned in 1900. Jamesburg was also an important railroad town, with two main lines and a roundhouse.

Today, Jamesburg is a primarily residential and commercial community with no industry within its area, nine-tenths of a square mile area.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US?
Visit: www.JamesburgHistory.com



A 1925 postcard showing *Lakeview* and the First National Bank of Jamesburg, founded in 1864 by James Buckelew.

JOIN US!

Membership Application

<p style="text-align: center;">INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS</p> <p>I would like to become an <u>annual</u> member:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$3.00/year (to age 16) <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20.00/year <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$30.00/year <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$50.00/year <input type="checkbox"/> Century Membership \$100 or more/year <p>Please list names of family members for "Family Memberships."</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>I would like my corporation to become an annual member:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum \$1,000/year <input type="checkbox"/> Gold \$500/year <input type="checkbox"/> Silver \$250/year <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze \$100/year <p style="text-align: center;">In-kind donations also appreciated</p> <p>Call 732-521-2040 for details on how we can help each other.</p>
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Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Family Names (For Family Membership): _____

Please make check payable to: JAMESBURG HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
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